

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: Concealed vs. non-concealed weapons

Question (from Pike County):

I was wondering what counties carry concealed vs. non-concealed in the field.

Allegheny County

Allegheny is concealed.

Berks County

Unconcealed however juvenile officers are concealed while conducting school visits and meetings with service providers.

Bradford County

Bradford is open carry, encouraged to conceal in schools. Must wear badge identification when carrying.

Cambria County

In Cambria Officers have the option to carry either way.

Clinton County

Clinton is by choice but all PO's currently carry non-concealed. We issue them all appropriate clothing and equipment, which includes a vest carrier. The courtroom is the only area that PO's have to be concealed.

Crawford County

Officer's choice but mostly non-concealed.

Dauphin County

It is optional; however, all our Field POs carry unconcealed. I have copied and pasted below our policy language on carry unconcealed and vest carriers: Note, if a PO chooses to open carry they are required to purchase the identification clothing with identification and vest carrier as outlined below.

Open carrying is permitted for:

1. Home contacts, arrests, riding with police, transports, and searches.
2. Officers/Units that have previously been approved to carry openly and wear a tactical vest are permitted to continue as previously approved.

3. Open carry is prohibited for all other activities including but not limited to:
 - a. Contacts at places of employment
 - b. Courthouse
 - c. Family Group Conferences
 - d. Schools
 - e. Any Dauphin County Probation Services Office

Identification required to open carry

1. If an officer chooses to carry openly, the following identification is required
 - a. Officers must wear a collared shirt. This may be short sleeve or long sleeve.
 - b. The shirt may be a dress shirt or polo/golf type shirt.
 - c. Officers will be permitted to wear a jacket.
 - d. Shirts/Jacket must be on solid color and embroidering or screen printing must be solid color and in a contrasting color that is easily readable.
 - e. All lettering on the shoulders
 - i. Must be at least 3/8th of an inch, capital, block lettering.
 - ii. Must say "DCPO" and "OFFICER" with the county logo between them.
 - iii. The County Logo must be at least 1 inch in height. (See Appendix A)
 - iv. This must be on each/both shoulders.
 - f. A badge/shield must appear on the front left chest area.
 - i. It must be at least 3¾ inches high.
 - ii. It must have the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Seal between the words "PROBATION OFFICER" and "DAUPHIN COUNTY" inside the badge. (See Appendix B)
 - g. Lettering on the back
 - iii. Must be 2 inch, capital, and block lettering.
 - iv. Must say "PROBATION OFFICER". (See Appendix C)

If an officer chooses to wear a vest carrier, the following criteria must be followed.

- a. The officer will be required to purchase the vest carrier.

- b. Carrier type must be approved by the Training Supervisor.
 - i. Carrier must have MOLLE compatible webbing in the front.
 - ii. Equipment that is going to be worn on the carrier must be stored in pouches or holsters specifically designed for that item. (i.e. if the TASER is going to be worn on the carrier, it must be secured in the TASER holster and attached using a MOLLE compatible platform. Magazines must be in a pouch designed specifically to secure magazines.)
 - iii. Carrier must be black or blue in color.
 - iv. Attached to the front of the carrier must be the word "PROBATION" or "PAROLE" in 1" or larger lettering. The back of the carrier must also display the word "PROBATION" or "PAROLE" in 2" or larger lettering. The lettering should be a contrasting color and easily identifiable
- c. Officers **MAY NOT** wear the carrier until they show competency with accessing their equipment.
 - i. Officers will be required to wear the carrier during a range event in which the Training Supervisor or other designated Firearms Instructor can observe them.
- d. Officers who chose to wear a carrier will do so anytime they are conducting field work.
 - i. Officers may not switch back and forth from using a carrier to not using a carrier unless they chose to wear a carrier but not have any critical gear attached to the carrier. (i.e. magazines or Taser).
- e. Firearms **MAY NOT** be attached to the carrier.
- f. Previous sections of this policy must still be followed while wearing a carrier except for section VIII, G, 1, a, and f.
 - i. If no badge patch is visible on the front of the carrier then the officer may wear their badge on a chain around their neck or attached to belt line.

Erie County

Erie County is conceal carry.

Juniata County

Juniata is open carry in the field but concealed in the office, schools, and Court.

Lackawanna County

Our firearm equipped Officers open-carry; along with an open carry taser when in the community doing field work. Officers are allowed to conceal carry when traveling from their

home to the office. Firearms are not carried in the office, except to secure them in designated gun lockers.

Lebanon County

Lebanon County Officers carry concealed unless they are going out to conduct a planned arrest. I have mixed feelings about our current policy and we have discussed changing it but have not done so.

Lycoming County

Non-concealed

Mifflin County

Non-concealed

Schuylkill County

Schuylkill County Officers carry concealed.

Snyder County

Snyder is by choice

Tioga County

Tioga is open carry in the field and concealed in the courtroom

Venango County

Venango is generally carry concealed with a few exceptions.

Wayne County

Wayne carries open but as discreetly as possible.

Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County officers carry concealed.

York County

York's Policy is the same as Cambria's.....officer choice.